

result from implementation of any of the three alternatives. Managing to restore or enhance one type of system involves unavoidable adverse affects to species already present if they are not part of the desired end-result.

By choosing the No Action we would not be removing or even reducing these unavoidable adverse impacts, we would simply be switching the impacts to different resources. For example, if we chose not to restore longleaf pine communities we would not risk the impacts associated with forest regeneration and prescribed burning and would likely, in the short-term at least, be able to support a larger diversity of songbirds in the thick understory of a less intensively managed stand. However, by making this choice we would be accepting unavoidable adverse impacts to species of the native longleaf pine community.

Conclusion.

Natural resources management in support of a military installation is a complex endeavor. The wide diversity of species, habitats, and military activities at MCAS Cherry Point necessitates a flexible, proactive approach. The Enhancement Alternative (preferred alternative) represents a reasonable plan for addressing the needs of the military mission and MCAS Cherry Points stewardship responsibilities for managing resources belonging to the public.

Based on an Environmental Impact Review Board analysis of the INRMP and EA, the Air Station finds that the INRMP meets the planning requirements of the Sikes Act. Further the Air Station finds that the proposal would not have a significant adverse impact on human health and the environment. Implementation of the Enhancement Alternative would result in effects on the natural resources of the MCAS Cherry Point complex; these effects would not be significant in terms of their context or intensity. The Air Station therefore concludes that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

The Environmental Assessment is on file and may be reviewed by interested parties by contacting: MCAS Cherry Point Environmental Affairs Department, Building 4223, Cherry Point, NC 28533; phone number (252)- 466-4186.



MajGen(Sel) Robert M. Flanagan
Commanding General
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point

9/27/01



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard

Atlanta, Georgia 30345

November 2, 2001

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/F

J. L. Hull
Colonel, USMC
Marine Corps Air Station
PSC Box 8003
Cherry Point, North Carolina 28533-0003

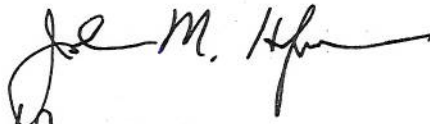
Dear Colonel Hull:

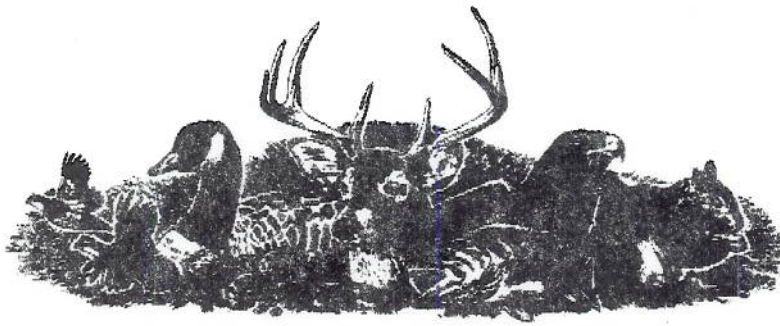
The Fish and Wildlife Service's Raleigh Field Office and Southeast Regional Office have reviewed the latest revision of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, and have found that, pursuant to Paragraph (a) (2) of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a et seq.), the Service and the Station are now in mutual agreement as to the plan's content.

We are providing this letter as recognition of our mutual agreement with regard to the INRMP.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the INRMP for your facility. Your concern for and efforts to protect endangered and threatened species are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 404/679-4000 or Mr. Tom Sinclair, Regional Sikes Act Coordinator, at 404/679-7324.

Sincerely yours,


for Sam D. Hamilton
Regional Director



☐ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☐

Charles R. Fullwood, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Rogers, Environmental Affairs Department
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point

FROM: Shannon Deaton, Program Manager *Shannon Deaton*
Habitat Conservation Program

DATE: December 18, 2001

SUBJECT: Comments Pertaining to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan,
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Staff biologists with the Wildlife Resources Commission have reviewed the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. Cherry Point personnel consulted with various NC Wildlife Resources Commission biologists during the development of this document. We fully support the Management for Enhancement alternative, which is identified by Cherry Point as the preferred alternative.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you need to discuss these comments please call Perry Sumner, Biologist, at (919) 735-0254.